

January 14, 2015

Health Advisory

State Health Department Asks Providers to Consider Influenza as a Possible Diagnosis in Patients Presenting with Parotitis

In recent weeks, states in the Midwest region of the United States have noted an increase in patients exhibiting parotitis; these patients test negative for mumps, but many test positive for influenza A H3. The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) is requesting health care providers consider influenza as a differential diagnosis in patients with parotitis. Parotitis is an uncommon complication of influenza, and NDDoH is working to gather information on an apparent increase in parotitis among people with influenza. We are requesting that providers report patients who present with both parotitis and influenza-like illness (ILI) to NDDoH by calling the Division of Disease Control at 701-328-2378.

The NDDoH recommends testing these patients for influenza, in addition to testing for mumps, when parotitis is present. NDDoH is requesting samples from patients with flu and/or (ILI) **and** parotitis be sent to the North Dakota Public Health Laboratory (NDPHL). These specimens should be collected using a nasopharyngeal (NP) swab and sent in viral transport media. The NDPHL will run a respiratory viral panel to identify influenza or other respiratory viruses. Free testing is available for patients that meet the following case definition:

1. Lab-confirmed influenza (rapid, PCR, or similar) or influenza-like illness

AND

2. Clinical diagnosis of parotitis or clinical signs and symptoms compatible with parotitis (i.e. “swelling of parotid gland or salivary glands”, “blurring of mandibular margin”)

AND

3. Symptom onset on or after October 1, 2014

For more information about mumps testing, please [visit www.ndhan.gov/data/health/2015-01-09-HAN%20VPD%202015-v.FINAL.pdf](http://www.ndhan.gov/data/health/2015-01-09-HAN%20VPD%202015-v.FINAL.pdf) .

For questions regarding laboratory testing please contact NDPHL at 701-400-2772. For all other questions, please call 701-328-2378.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

- *Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.*
- *Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.*
- *Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.*

This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, and hospital public information officers.